

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RBARRY:RVC

APPROVED BY EUR/JAARMITAGE

A/FBO:PSTANCE (SUBS)

INR:WM. JONES III (SUBS)

C:WSHINN

S/S:MR. LUERS

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R 142321Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, UR

SUBJECT: NEW YORK AND KIEV CONSULATES

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR MYSHKOV CALLED AT DEPT (SOV) MARCH 13 TO ASK FOR "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" TO SOVIET PURCHASE OF BUILDING AT 9 EAST 91ST ST, NYC FOR SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL. MYSHKOV SAID INSPECTION TEAM WOULD BE ARRIVING LATER THIS MONTH FROM MOSCOW TO INSPECT NEW SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING IN RIVERDALE, N. Y. AND THEY WOULD ALSO WISH TO INSPECT 91ST ST. PROPERTY.

2. MYSHKOV SAID THAT SOVIETS FULLY INTENDED TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF 1974 SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE WHICH PROVIDED FOR SIMULTANEOUS "OPENING" OF KIEV AND NEW YORK CONSULATES. (ENGLISH VERSION OF COMMUNIQUE READS "ESTABLISHMENT" OF CONSULATES.) HE POINTED OUT THAT NEW YORK REAL ESTATE MARKET WAS VERY VOLATILE AND THAT ONCE AN ACCEPTABLE
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BUILDING WAS FOUND SOVIET EMBASSY FELT CONSTRAINED TO MOVE

FAST LEST IT "FLY AWAY".

3. MYSHKOV SAID THAT IF USG GAVE "APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE" SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD THEN SUBMIT FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST

TO PURCHASE PROPERTY AND ALSO SEEK APPROVAL FROM "MINISTRY OF FINANCE" IN MOSCOW. THEY WOULD PLAN TO PAY FULL CASH PURCHASE PRICE ON RECEIVING OUR APPROVAL AND OCCUPY BUILDING, THOUGH MYSHKOV GAVE ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOT BEGIN OPERATIONS UNTIL KIEV CONSULATE READY TO OPEN.

4. ACTING SOV DIRECTOR (KOVNER) NOTED THAT WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED PROPERTY OFFER IN KIEV AND THAT WE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIETS WANTED TO RESOLVE ISSUE OF CONSULAR DISTRICTS BEFORE DISCUSSING PROPERTIES. MYSHKOV NOTED THAT CONSULAR DISTRICT PROBLEM "ALMOST SOLVED" AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE PROPERTY TO OFFER SOON. IN RESPONSE TO A RECOUNTING OF THE DIFFICULTIES US ADVANCE PARTY EXPERIENCED WHILE WAITING FOR ACCEPTABLE PROPERTY OFFER IN LENINGRAD, MYSHKOV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD NOT CREATE OBSTACLES TO SOVIET ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY SINCE THIS WOULD BE "UNFAIR".

5. IN THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENTATION MYSHKOV REMARKED THAT SOVIETS WANTED "FREE STANDING" BUILDING AND HAD OTHER "SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS ANALOGOUS TO US REQUIREMENTS." HE SAID THEY HAD NO PLANS TO REDO THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING OTHER THAN ADDING A FENCE BUT THAT INTERIOR WOULD BE REDESIGNED.

6. MYSHKOV WAS TOLD THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD LOOK INTO HIS REQUEST AND THAT WE HOPED KIEV AUTHORITIES WOULD SOON COME UP WITH PROPERTY OFFER.

7. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO GIVE SOVIETS PERMISSION TO CONSUMMATE PURCHASE OF BUILDING OR OCCUPY IT BEFORE ACCEPTABLE PROPERTY OFFER MADE IN KIEV. HOWEVER, WE ARE SEEKING VIEWS OF INTERESTED AGENCIES ON
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SUITABILITY OF THIS PROPERTY FROM US POINT OF VIEW.

8. FOR USUN. REQUEST YOU BRING SOVIET REQUEST TO ATTENTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. INGERSOLL

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